

WIGWAM TO WIGWAM

YOUR HOUSE TO HOUSE NEWS

DECEMBER 2009

The Holiday Edition

Niibaa' anami'egüizhigad



HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSURES

December 24, 2009

Office open until noon

December 25, 2009

Christmas Day – office closed

December 28, 2009

Boxing Day Holiday

December 31, 2009

Office open until noon

January 1, 2010

New Years Day- office closed

Boldog karácsonyt

Mitho

Makosi

Kesikansi



Joyeux Noël

Καλό Χριστούγεννα

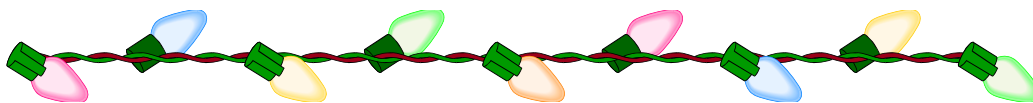
كل عام وאתم خيبر

¡Feliz Navidad!



بجس بيد

Happy Holidays from the Board and Staff at Wigwamen!



Inside this issue:	
In the News	2
In the News (continued)	3
3-1-1 *new city services line	3
Maintenance—smoke alarms	4
Rent payment reminder	4
Scholarship	5
Flower Power correction	5
Holiday recipe	6
Zero Balance Club	6
Young artist page	7
Book of the Month club	7
Get involved...	8

IN THE NEWS

Opening up the green energy tent; Tapping Ontario's potential as a source of cleaner energy has improved the relations between energy giants and Aboriginal groups with land rights in key green energy areas. The result is a meeting of minds in brokering deals that aim to benefit all.

By Tyler Hamilton, The Toronto Star, October 3, 2009

John Kim Bell didn't mince words as he stood before a three-member panel of the Ontario Energy Board.

It was early 2008, and the energy regulator had just kicked off what was expected to be a lengthy review of the province's 20-year power system plan. Bell, a Mohawk Indian and distinguished representative of the Assembly of First Nations, pointed to what he called "elements of discrimination" in the process.

Ontario's power-planning agency may have fulfilled its legal duty to consult with aboriginal groups, but Bell implied that such consultation amounted to little more than a series of information sessions across the province— or what one observer described as a "box checking" exercise. In the end, Indian communities were still left standing on the sidelines.

"We want to work inside the tent with you," said Bell, a former conductor of the Toronto Symphony who now spends his time as an aboriginal and government-relations consultant. "There is no plausible way for First Nations to break the stranglehold of poverty without the access to and participation in the major pillars of Ontario's economy. One of these pillars is the energy sector."

Bell's message, it seems, was taken to heart. Eight months later, at a gathering of energy executives in Niagara Falls, newly appointed Energy Minister George Smitherman walked up to a podium and announced he was sending the Ontario Power Authority's 20-year plan back to the drawing board so that greater emphasis could be placed on renewable-energy and conservation. At the same time, he

directed the power agency to pursue an "enhanced process of consultation" with First Nation and Métis communities. It made sense. Ontario's energy sector is in the early stages of a massive, costly transformation.

For the province to achieve its ambitious green-energy goals it will have to tap wind and hydroelectric potential in northern regions where Indians hold land rights.

Paul Manning, a lawyer who represented the National Chief's Office for the Assembly of First Nations during the 2008 hearings, says he is encouraged by what has unfolded since Smitherman reset the whole process. In May, a new Green Energy Act was passed into law paving the way for aboriginal groups to participate directly in renewable-energy and related transmission development projects.

Earlier this month, Smitherman announced that \$250 million in loan guarantees would be available to assist aboriginal communities looking to take ownership in green power projects. The same day he unveiled another fund that helps communities develop energy plans, as well as pay for technical research and project feasibility studies.

Aboriginal-owned projects can also earn a special premium for the electricity they generate, assuming the power is sold onto the grid. Manning calls all these initiatives a "genuine endeavor" to respond to aboriginal concerns.

Historically, aboriginal communities were ignored and shunted aside when it comes to energy projects.

In the 1950's, during construction of the

St. Lawrence Seaway and Power Project, government-owned Ontario Hydro flooded ten islands on traditional territories used by Mohawks of Akwesasne.

Ontario ended up with the 1,000-megawatt R.H. Saunders Generating Station, situated just west of Cornwall. But getting that power meant putting villages and burial sites under water, displacing dozens of Indian families, and destroying spawning beds that sustained the diets of the Mohawk population in the area.

"Some of the things done in the past with respect to First Nations, they're just mind boggling the way they occurred," says John Murphy, executive vice-president of hydropower at Ontario Power Generation (OPG), which was spun out of Ontario Hydro a decade ago. "You can't change the past...what you can do is step up to the plate and take responsibility and accountability for what has been done."

Five years ago, OPG was given that mandate, and Murphy helped revive a half-hearted process started in the mid-1990's aimed at righting past wrongs. It involved extensive meetings with aboriginal elders and leaders, a kind of trust-building exercise that also helped the company better understand the impact of its past actions and how to make amends.

"We've resolved past grievances," Murphy says.

This includes a formal apology to the Mohawks of Akwesasne as part of an agreement last October that included \$46 million in compensation and a promise to rehabilitate affected waters and lands. A similar agreement was struck in 2006 with Lac Seul First Nation about 200 km

IN THE NEWS (continued)

northwest of Thunder Bay, and this May with the Red Rock First Nation slightly west of Thunder Bay. In both cases, OPG talked optimistically about developing “mutually beneficial” commercial relationships.

Murphy says industry officials have known for decades about the hydroelectric potential in northern Ontario. Thousands of megawatts could be developed, and the Ontario Power Authority even included 2,000 megawatts as part of its 20-year plan. The wind resource is even more abundant. But past governments considered dealing with aboriginal communities a complex, messy business, so the projects were largely avoided. That changed in April when OPG opened Lac Seul Generating Station, a 12.5-megawatt hydroelectric facility developed in partnership with Lac Seul First Nation. It marked the first time in Ontario where a government-owned utility shared ownership of a power station with an aboriginal community, in this case by selling a 25 percent stake in the project.

Lac Seul Chief Clifford Bull says his people wanted 50 percent stake but OPG didn't feel comfortable going that high.

“But this is still a precedent-setting agreement that will pave the way to other agreements that help us attain that 50-50 ownership.”

The deal, he says, has energized the community. It will bring much-needed jobs, training and business experience, along with a source of income that can be used for future energy developments.

“Its been interesting to see the positive influence it has had on work we're doing with other First Nation communities. Success breeds other successes, whether it's with us or with private developers,” Murphy said.

The proposed legislation, which has gone through one reading in the legislature so far, aims to protect at least 225,000 square kilometers of Ontario's Far North, or an area three times the size of Lake Superior. It would let aboriginal communities in protected areas choose where development of natural resources is restricted and where it can happen in a sustainable way.

Michael Fox, a Cree Indian and an economic development consultant, says the legislation is being sold as a tool that lets aboriginal communities control their own destinies.

But by requiring communities to develop a land-use plan, which is a lengthy exercise, it puts renewable-energy projects ready to move ahead in a holding pattern.

“The Green Energy Act is creating community-sector power, helping First Nations become the drivers of the bus,” says Fox. “But the Far North Act is taking the wheels off the bus.”

Donna Cansfield, minister of natural resources, told the Star there's nothing preventing aboriginal communities from doing early development of hydroelectric and wind projects in parallel with a community land-use plan. The only requirement is that the larger community plan be completed before the project becomes shovel-ready.

But Fox says the ministry won't issue a “site release” before a community plan is done, even if a tribes council unanimously support the projects.

“I think the ministry is caught up in a quagmire of its own policies.”

The City of Toronto recently launched their new

City services hotline:

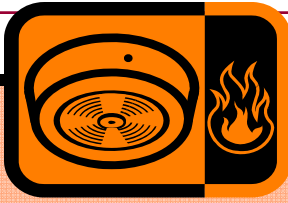
Dial 3-1-1



This hotline number can be use to report such city-related problems as missed garbage pickups, potholes on your street, where the nearest community centre is and much more. This service is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and information is available in 180 languages.

For more information on the new 3-1-1 service, go to the City of Toronto website at www.toronto.ca/311

MAINTENANCE



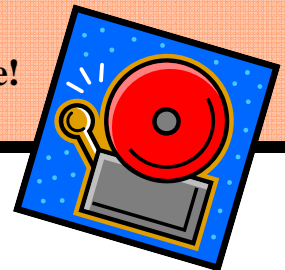
SMOKE ALARMS

With the Christmas season on its way, it is a good time to emphasize the importance of having working smoke alarms in your home.

The Ontario Fire Code requires that every home be equipped with a working smoke alarm. Wigwamen maintains the smoke alarms in all their units and inspects them every 3 months to ensure they are working correctly. **NEVER** remove a smoke alarm or its batteries. If your smoke alarm is beeping, call the office immediately. Your alarm may need new batteries or may be defective and need to be replaced.

At Wigwamen we are very serious about safety and we require your cooperation to ensure such safety standards are maintained.

Please help us make your home the safest it can be!



Important tenant reminder

Please be advised that rental payments are due at the 1st of every month. Please ensure that your payment is on time each month.

If you are having trouble making your rental payments on time or you would like to set up direct withdrawal,

please contact Lynne Vallis
at (416) 481-4451 ext. 24.



Private scholarships and bursaries

Casino Rama's Awards for Excellence Program

Casino Rama's scholarship and bursaries program awards Aboriginal students who are permanent residents of Ontario and have completed at least one full-time year of study and are currently enrolled in an accredited university or college, a chance to qualify for up to \$2,500 in support.



The deadline to apply is January 30, 2010.

For more information please contact:

Casino Rama, Corporate Affairs Department

Box 178, RR#6

Rama, ON L0K 1T0

Ph: 1-800-832-PLAY

1-705-329-5256

Flower Power 2009 - Correction

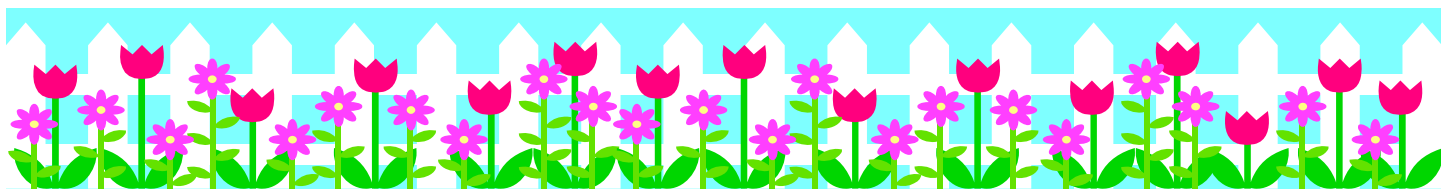
In last month's newsletter we made an error in reporting the 2nd place winner for the 2009 Flower Power contest.

The 2nd place winners are:

Catherine Wemigwans

and

Thelma Elliott



HOLIDAY RECIPE

If you have a recipe that you would like to see in our newsletter, see how on page 8!



Chocolate-Candy Cane Cookies



By Kraft Canada

Ingredients

- 1 pkg. (250 g) PHILADELPHIA Brick Cream Cheese, softened
- 3/4 cup butter, softened
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 tsp. vanilla
- 2-1/2 cups flour
- 1/2 tsp. baking soda
- 4 squares BAKER'S Semi-Sweet Chocolate, melted
- 1 pkg. (6 squares) BAKER'S White Chocolate
- 12 hard peppermint candies, crushed

Instructions:

- HEAT** oven to 350°F. Beat cream cheese, butter, sugar and vanilla in large bowl with mixer until well blended. Add flour and baking soda; mix well. Blend in semi-sweet chocolate.
- SHAPE** tablespoonfuls of dough into 52 balls; roll each into 3-inch-long rope. Place, 2 inches apart, on baking sheets, bending top of each slightly to resemble a candy cane.
- BAKE** 10 to 12 min. or until lightly browned; cool 5 min. on baking sheets. Transfer to wire racks; cool completely. Microwave white chocolate as directed on package; drizzle over cookies. Sprinkle with crushed candies. Let stand until chocolate is firm.



ZERO BALANCE CLUB

If you pay your rent on time each month and do not owe money to Wigwamen, you are automatically entered into the monthly draw to win a \$50 grocery store gift card!



PAST WINNERS:

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| Jalal Ahmed | Brian Roberts |
| Rita Langga | Kathreena Green |
| Cassandra Scarlett | Thelma Elliott |
| Sarah Recollet | |



Calling all young artists...

Each month we would like to include a piece of artwork or writing (including poems, short stories, etc.) in our newsletter to highlight talent amongst our youngest tenants!

If you are between the ages 5 and 13 and would like to contribute your work to our monthly newsletter please contact Danielle Powell at (416) 481-4451.

PLEASE NOTE: Submissions must be no bigger than 5 1/4" x 4 1/4"
**(approximately half a piece of paper) and should include your name,
address and age on the back of your work.**



We look forward to seeing all of your wonderful submissions!

Check back each month to see if your artwork or writing is printed in the newsletter!



YOUR "HOUSE TO HOUSE" NEWS

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**If you have submissions for the
"Wigwam to Wigwam" newsletter,
please contact:**

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(416) 481-4451

dpowell@wigwamen.com